

WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes-May 11, 2005
Amelio's, 431 S. Fifth St.
Logansport, Indiana

Voting members present:

Allen County-Paul McAfee
Carroll County-Dan McCain (proxy)
Cass County-Mercedes Brugh
DNR-Steve Morris
Miami County-Ken Einselen
Parke County-John Isaacs
Sullivan County-John Gettinger
Vigo County-Keith Ruble (alternate)
Warren County-Louise Jewell

Huntington County – John Gettinger
Wells County-Mike Mettler

Nonvoting members present:

Brian Blackford-Indiana Tourism

Nonvoting members not present:

IDEM
INDOT
DNR-DHPA

Voting members absent w/o proxy:

Fountain County
Gibson County
Jay County
Knox County
Posey County
Tippecanoe County
Vermillion County
Wabash County

Commission and DNR staff present:

Ron James-WRHCC Exec. Director
Cynthia Webb-DNR Outdoor Recreation

Guests:

Craig Rennemann-Little Turtle
Waterway
Jonathan Justice-Little Turtle Waterway
Michael Fincher-Mayor of Logansport
Richard Rusk-County Councilman
Janet Fawley
Don Jewell
Susan Ruble

Proxies:

Adams County-John Gettinger

CALL TO ORDER

John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. He then thanked Mercedes for having the commission to Logansport. He turned the meeting over to Mercedes. Mercedes introduced guest speaker Jonathan Justice. Jonathan spoke about invasive plant species.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mercedes would like to discuss in Old Business, the benefits, if any, of joining the Rivers Institute.

Ron James would like to discuss the appointment of a budget committee in New Business.

John Gettinger would like to discuss the highway signs for the Wabash River in Water Trails.

Mercedes Brugh made a motion to approve the additions to the agenda and Ken Einselen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 9TH, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting minutes were not reviewed or approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John reported he is chairman of the Partnership for Turtle Creek and has been for the past three years. The Partnership for Turtle Creek was awarded the national Excellence in Conservation award. John passed out copies of the photograph he posed for with the state and local officials after being awarded the "Excellence in Conservation Award."

He also distributed a written report at the meeting.

John also reported the NRCS chief, Bruce Knight, may return for the 8th grade raft trip.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ron's report is attached to the back of the minutes. Ron informed the commission the newsletter, *L'Espirt De Ouabache* is not completed.

Ron is going to be concentrating on attending the County Commission meetings and trying to get active people appointed. Ron needs a list of meeting times.

Keith Ruble informed the commission that Knox County is looking for a new park superintendent.

Ron reported \$685 for the John Taylor Memorial.

INTRODUCTIONS

At this time Steve reminded John that the introductions had been overlooked. All attendees present introduced themselves.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Report

Steve Morris went through the finance report that was pasted out to the commissioners. After his explanation of the report, there were no questions.

Legislative Report

Mercedes Brugh explained the commission got funded. Mercedes suggested Thank You letters be sent to Senator Weatherwax and Senator Meeks.

Senate Bill 60 went through the legislature.

Water Trail Report

Mike Mettler was not present.

Ron explained the problem is the map design. The student that was working on it said he couldn't work on it anymore. The prototype that Ron has won't work.

Ron got a commercial designer that gave him a bid of \$4000.

Ron was informed the contact at PEN Products had quit, so he is to meet with a graphic designer, tomorrow(May 12th) at 9 am.

Ron explained the bids for the water trails signs are in. Ron went through the prices for each of the companies.

Paul McAfee made a motion to order 100 small signs and 50 large signs from Hall Signs, John Isaacs seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Wabash Video Report

Tom Straw was not present.

Ron said he had sent off the first batch of introduction letters for possible sponsors.

Ron was not sure if WRHCC was facilitating the video.

John Gettinger thought it a good idea to put the left over money into the video.

There was discussion whether to use left over funds for the video or not.

Paul McAfee made a motion for Ron to use the leftover funds for the video, Mercedes Brugh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Education Report

The teacher's workshop is being held in Delphi. John has furnished the literature for the workshop. Ron is on the program.

Ken Einselen said there are not enough teachers, more need to sign up.

It was suggested getting on the curriculum at the various universities, such as Purdue.

Newsletter Report

Ron has a handful of articles he has received. He will be getting it done.

Interpretive Brochure

Ron needs corrections of telephone numbers, addresses and websites. Ron also questioned the need for new artwork?

OLD BUSINESS

Status of BOW bylaws

Ron and John G. are now members of the Banks of the Wabash board. The bylaws will establish the county chapters in 19 counties. There are 25 members.

The Banks of the Wabash needs to get IRS approval.

Wabash River Heritage Paddlefest

John G. reported the Paddlefest is moving forward. The event is to be held August 6th, 2005. The Evansville Canoe Club is sponsoring the event.

De-Trash the Wabash

Little River is holding its' De-Trash the Wabash this weekend (May 14-15). May 21st, Tippecanoe County is holding their De-Trash the Wabash. Keith Ruble mentioned the De-Trash the Wabash held in Vigo County on April 23rd, was a successful drive.

National River Rally

Ron James and John Gettinger are going to the River Rally being held in Keystone, Colorado.

Ron put in for scholarships. It will cost \$100 to become members of the River Network.

Rivers Institute meeting

Ron attended the Rivers Institute meeting on March 24, 2005. Ron reported there was no one there to represent recreation, tourism or cultural interests. The meeting was mainly focused on big river issues. Some of the focus was on the Wabash River.

Indiana Academy of Sciences will be having a conference in Terre Haute at St. Marys-of-the-Woods.

Ron said the ideas for the raft trip were scrapped along with the idea of a reception at the Paul Dresser house. Ron said the Teach the River might fit in with academic involvement with the Rivers Institute.

Louise remarked it sounded like they wanted to read about the river but not experience the river.

NEW BUSINESS

Enjoy Indiana Listing Contract 2006-2007

Ron was contacted by Rhonda Jones and it is going to be \$220 to be listed in the Travel Guide. It seems they are sold by regions and the Wabash River is in two regions, possibly three or four.

Louise Jewell said to pass on it, the commission didn't need it.

There was discussion on listing the Wabash Brochure in the Outdoor Recreation Guide.

Mercedes Brugh made a motion to authorize Ron James to investigate listing the brochure and pay for it if he needs to. John Isaacs seconded the motion. Motion passed.

International Heritage Development Conference

The International Heritage Development Conference is being held in Nashville, Tennessee on June 4-8, 2005. Ron questioned the commission about going. It would be \$300 registration fee.

Paul McAfee made a motion to allow \$500 expense money so Ron could attend the conference. There was no second.

TrailLink 2005

The TrailLink is being held in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota on July 27-30, 2005. Steve Morris is attending and Dan McCain will be going too.

Renewal Of Lafayette office lease for 2005-2008

The cost of the Lafayette office lease is \$50 a month. After some discussion about keeping the office, Paul McAfee made a motion to renew the lease for the Lafayette office. Keith Ruble seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Membership purchase in NPO's in corridor

Ron asked members about becoming members in various NPO's (non-profit organizations). Ron explained that the commission could join most organizations in the NPO for \$50 a year. There was discussion about joining various organizations and the benefits of joining.

John Isaacs made a motion to join several NPO's: Little Turtle Waterway, Canal Society of Indiana using up to \$400. Ken Einselen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Initial Solicitation for May, July and Sept., 2006 meetings

Warren County and Carroll County were mentioned as places to have meetings. John mentioned thinking about planning a retreat.

The meetings were tabled for the next meeting.

Other items

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John announced on June 3-5, Merom Conference Center are having the Bluff of Chautauqua.

Dan McCain had New Delphi travel brochures for any one who wanted them. Dan also mentioned the National Trails Day taking place on the first Saturday of June.

John talked about the public access signs.

A committee was assigned for working on the design process for the public access sites. Louise Jewell is to chair the committee and John Gettinger and Ken Einselen are the other committee members.

Ron asked for appointments for a budget committee. Mercedes Brugh is to chair the committee and the other appointments are Steve Morris and Ron James.

GENERAL DISCUSSION**Comments by Commission Alternates**

Keith Ruble reminded Ron about not being to answer a question about coming in physical contact with the water in the Wabash River. Keith said the Board of Health will work with each county and test water samples if people would volunteer to take the samples.

Comment by Visitors

Don Jewell said he was glad the WRHCC was successful with the budget.

Final Comments by Commission Members

John Isaacs reported the arsonist who burned the Bridgeton Covered Bridge has been apprehended. John also reported the Jeffries Ford Bridge was burned also.

ADJOURNMENT

Keith Ruble made a motion to adjourn and John Isaacs seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.